

East Germany

REPORT

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ 25X1  
 TOPIC Military Information from Merseburg  
 EVALUATION \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OBTAINED \_\_\_\_\_ 25X1  
 DATE OF CONTENT \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE OBTAINED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE PREPARED 4 February 1953  
 REFERENCES \_\_\_\_\_  
 PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) \_\_\_\_\_  
 REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 12 January 1953, the Flak Kaserne between Geusaer Strasse and Rhein Strasse, Merseburg, was occupied by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and, a few, with motor transport insignia, and about 30 to 40 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets. All barracks buildings were fully lighted after nightfall. On 2 January, three 57-mm AT guns were unloaded at the Merseburg railroad station. Only physical training was observed.

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2. On 28 December, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 800 to 900 troops.

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3. Beginning 15 December, a firing range and training area was being prepared in the area between the installation and Klobikauer Strasse. A makeshift stone wall from debris of the former ordnance shop was being erected along Klobikauer Strasse. Nine watchtowers, about 10 meters high, were on an embankment with observation slits in the southeast corner of the training area. Additional watchtowers were under construction. Two guns pointing westward were seen on the east side of the area. Troops practiced aiming these guns almost daily.

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4. Beginning about mid-November, an embankment was being built around the former ordnance shop of the Flak Kaserne. Nine wood-revetted watchtowers were seen on the inner side of the embankment. On 22 November, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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[redacted] Comment. Prior to mid-January 1953, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by all the elements of the 76th Arty Brig (US) of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps as previously. As a brigade of this type is believed to have a total strength of 1,600 to 1,700, the strength estimate in paragraph 1 appears too high, whereas the figure given in paragraph 2 appears much too low. The 30 to 40 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets possibly belong to [redacted] a signal unit of the GORC, which, in early May 1952, had been transferred to Merseburg from the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam. [redacted]

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